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Montana and the sky

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Department of Transportation - Aeronautics Division

Vol. 44 No. 9

September 1993

Helena hosts INAC Conference

By Debbie Alke
Administrative Officer

The Colonial Inn was the site for the 1993 International Northwest Aviation Council (INAC) Conference held August 18-20. INAC was established in 1936 and offers a forum for all provincial, state and federal aviation organizations and governments to present a united front on issues affecting aviation in the great northwest.

Mike Ferguson serves as the 1993 INAC President and with the retirement of the INAC Secretary/Treasurer in December of this year, Mike has agreed to accept those duties beginning in 1994.

Conference attendees received a warm "Helena" greeting as Supreme Court Justice Bill Hunt; Mayor Kay McKenna; Helena Regional Airport Manager and Montana Aeronautics Board Chairman Ron Mercer; and Mike Ferguson welcomed the group at the Conference kick-off.

The keynote speakers at the three-day event included: Ed Stimpson, President, General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA); Jack Waddell, retired Boeing test pilot; and a special Montana friend Dr. Jerry Cockrell, MARKAIR 737 Captain, Anchorage, Alaska.

Panel lecturers offered a collection of information relative to the United States and Canadian interests. Speakers from Transport Canada were Tom Cook, Don Douglas, and Mike Matthews. Their counterparts from the FAA Northwest Mountain Region included Ed Tatum, Ed Henderson, and Jim Fels. A special "Open Skies" presentation

was conducted by Dave Frank, Horizon Pacific Ventures, Ltd., Burnaby, BC. In addition, Ed Scott, Executive Vice President, National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), briefed the group on the states role in aviation, projects underway at NASAO and current events in Washington DC impacting aviation.

Other highlights included a special appearance of the Helena Youth Choir, a

Gates of the Mountain boat tour complete with a pitch fork fondue dinner, and the annual Fun Run where reigning champion Ted Soliday of Bellingham, WA met his match in Redge Meierhenry of the Division, as they united crossing the finish line!

Next year's conference will be hosted by Cheyenne, WY and Jerry Olsen, Cheyenne Airport Manager, who will serve as INAC President during 1994.

See photos page 7.



At Meriweather Campground conference participants enjoyed a pitch fork fondue dinner. The weather and wildlife cooperated wonderfully for the evening boat tour on the Missouri River.

Participants from more than eleven states, three Canadian provinces and Switzerland were attracted to Helena for the INAC Conference.



Administrator's Column

President's Commission Recommends Liability Repose: President Clinton's National Commission To Ensure A Strong Competitive Airline Industry has finalized its study which is the product of an intense 90-day process by a bi-partisan Commission appointed by the President and Congress. The study addresses problems not only of the airlines but aerospace industries and general aviation as well. I noted with particular interest that the Commission recommends restructuring the FAA into an independent government corporation removed from the federal budget process, but that safety oversight should stay with the federal government. The Commission also recommends enactment of a statute of repose for general aviation aircraft which would limit the liability of manufacturers to 15- years from the date of manufacture. The report addresses many other issues including security, airline financial strength and bankruptcy; international restrictions; continued funding of the essential air service program; aviation taxes; stronger enforcement of the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant assurances barring diversions of airport revenues to non-airport purposes; noise; expediting the Global Positioning System for advance navigation; satellite communications; and more. The Commission hopes their report will be approved by the administration and adopted by Congress.



Age 60 Rule Proposal: The FAA has issued a notice to advise the public that the age 60 rule proposal meeting scheduled for June 23, 1993 has been rescheduled to September 29, 1993 and that the comment period has been extended from July 19, 1993 to October 15, 1993. The reason for delaying the meeting and comment period is to allow the new FAA Administrator Hinson the opportunity to participate in the deliberations regarding the age 60 issue. The current FAA regulations prohibit pilots from flying for airlines after age 60. In the March 1993 issue of *Montana and the Sky*, I wrote about the FAA's own financed independent study which contradicts the FAA's age 60 prohibition which found no correlation between pilot age and accidents until about age 70. The FAA has listed many issues to be addressed during the meeting which lead me to believe that they have reservations with the study results and therefore are not overly receptive to changing their rule. I'll be pleasantly surprised to see any significant change. If you wish to send written comments, you must mail in triplicate to: Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Chief Counsel, Attention Rules Docket (AGC-10), 27264, 800 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20591. Remember the deadline is October 15, 1993.



First Lady of Aviation Folds Her Wings: The world wide aviation community mourned the death of Olive Ann Beech who passed away in her home in Wichita on July 6, 1993. Mrs. Beech was the retired chairman and co-founder of Beech Aircraft Corporation. Olive Ann began her career in aircraft manufacturing in 1924 when she joined the Travel Air Manufacturing Company as secretary/bookkeeper where she learned the aircraft manufacturing business from the ground up. One year after Walter Beech merged his Travel Air Company with Curtiss-Wright Airplane Company he and Olive Ann were married in 1930. In 1932 they founded Beech Aircraft Company with Walter as president and Olive Ann as secretary-treasurer. After Walter's death in 1950 Olive Ann became chairman and president until 1968 when she then served as chairman emeritus until 1982. During Mrs. Beech's 50 years at the helm Beech Aircraft grew from 10 employees to over 10,000. Mrs. Beech was always known as a fair caring leader of her company and earned the highest respect from her peers. She received many prestigious awards including "The Sands of Time: Kitty Hawk Civilian Award; Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy; the Staggerwing Museum Foundation in Tullahoma, TN, dedicated the Olive Ann Beech Gallery and Chapel in her honor; she was inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame in 1982 where she joined her husband



Montana and the Sky
Department of Transportation
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Official monthly publication
of the
Aeronautics Division
Telephone 444-2506
2630 Airport Road
Helena, Montana 59604
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Montana and the Sky is published monthly
in the interest of aviation in the
State of Montana.
Third Class postage paid at
Helena, Montana 59604

Subscription: \$3 per year
Editor: Debbie Alke
Editorial Assistanc:
Sean Seville

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Martin Elshire and Steve Vold accept their Top Flight Award from Dan Barks and Tim White of Bendix/King.

Aerotronics = top 20 in world!

It was a dream come true for Martin Elshire and Steve Vold of Aerotronics, when Dan Barks and Tim White of Bendix/King Radio paid them a visit. Barks and White of Olathe, KS came to Billings to present Aerotronics with the prestigious Top Flight Award.

This very distinguished award is presented to the top twenty (20) avionics companies in the world. These twenty organizations are recognized for their outstanding marketing efforts, sales achievement and customer service.

Come help celebrate.....Aerotronics is planning a grand opening of its new, expanded facilities at Logan Field. The festivities will begin on Friday afternoon, October 15 and continue through the 16th.

Plans include a GPS/Avionics Seminar assured to be the largest gathering of avionic factory representatives in the northwest. These reps from all over the country will be present to demonstrate the most current avionic products ranging from GPS to EFIS.

All the new gadgets and toys will be available for your "hands-on" enjoyment.

Don't miss this exciting avionics happening and makes plans now to join Aerotronics on October 15 and 16.

For blow-by-blow details of the fun to be had, be on the lookout for flyers and further advertisement or call Aerotronics at 259-5006.

Airport Notice

By: John McPhail, Manager
Bowman Field (Anaconda)

Anaconda (Bowman Field) is under construction, runway 4/22 is currently being repaved and our parking apron is being re-built.

Runway 16/34 is still open. Access to the gas pumps will be available as much as possible, but, do to a lot of earth being moved will temporarily be cut-off, sorry for the inconvenience. If you need to tie-down, you can still do so at the SW end of the field.

Please note that NOTAMS with Great Falls Flight Service are current, please call them for the status of our airport.

I am hoping that our airport will be back to normal by the middle of September.

When the runway is done, stop by and see us. We've got a free courtesy car, 24 hour a day gas, and the greatest little airport in Montana, 5 miles away from the greatest little town in Montana, Anaconda!

Because of the weather and construction there won't be a fly- in this summer in Anaconda, but make space on your calendar for next summer. We're planning a big one.

Look forward to seeing you and please have a Safe Flight!

Calendar

Sept. 3-6 — Fly-in, Yellowstone Airport, West Yellowstone.

Sept. 10-12 — Montana Flying Farmer (MFF) Fly-In, Polebridge. Land at Wurtz Strip.

Sept. 17-19 — Mountain Search Pilot Clinic, Kalispell.

Sept. 17-19 — Reno Air Races.

Sept. 18 — Tobacco Valley Fly-in, Eureka. Call Marita Combs 889-3833.

Sept. 18-19 — Second Annual Columbus Day Parade of Flight and Mountain Man Rendezvous.

Sept. 25-26 — Dillon Hangar MPA Fly-in. Dance and breakfast. Contact Jim Pannell at 683-2061.

October 1 — Montana Aeronautics Board Work Session, Helena.

October 8-10 — Montana Flying Farmer Convention, Glasgow.

October 15-16 — Open House/GPS Demo, Aerotronics, Billings.

October 22 — Montana Aeronautics Board Meeting, Helena.

Feb. 4-6, 1994 — Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic, Helena.

Feb. 23-26, 1994 — Montana Aviation Conference, Billings.

Montana Coyote Update

Upon obtaining great success at Oshkosh, Montana Coyote has decided to proceed with its dealership program. Interest has been displayed by many in the US and eight foreign countries.

Beginning January 1, Montana Coyote will supply Cleveland brakes, Scot tailwheel and Stits covering as standard equipment.

They are now OEM supplies for Lycoming, Continental and AMW engines; which includes McCauley, Culver, VeriProps and Terra Radios.

For more information regarding the dealership program or other questions contact Jim Stuart, Business Manager at Montana Coyote, 3302 Airport Rd., Helena, MT 59601 or call 406-449-3556.

ACE Academy A Success

By: Paul Kilmer
Helena FSDO, FAA

Junior and senior high school students from communities across the state travelled to Helena in early July to take part in "ACE" (Aviation Career Education) Academy. Targeted to orient younger interests to today's aerospace industry careers and emphasize the extent of our national air transport system, the event was sponsored by the Montana Aeronautics Division and the Federal Aviation Administration in cooperation with the Helena Vo-Tech, which provided classrooms and facilities. They were joined by the Montana Board of Higher Education, the Office of Public Instruction in addition to other organizations that supported the program with speakers, tours and demonstrations. A total of 24 students completed the program that ran from June 29 through July 3, and included topics such as: rocketry, airline careers, government and military careers, astronomy, navigation, pilotage, aviation maintenance and astronaut careers with NASA.

It is anticipated that the Academy will be offered again next year to coincide with the Family Fly-in and Safety Expo which is scheduled for July 8 -10, 1994 in Helena.



Fred Naehrer, NASA astronaut, presented an interesting program on NASA and the Space Shuttle Program. Students had the chance to model a space suit as Fred explained its makeup.



A day trip to Great Falls included tours of the Montana Air National Guard, Malmstrom Air Force Base and the FAA Air Traffic Control Facility. Students received the opportunity of first-hand experience in a flight simulator.



At Malmstrom, students were introduced to the F-16, T-38, and the KC-135. The students were overwhelmed by the massive size of the KC-135.

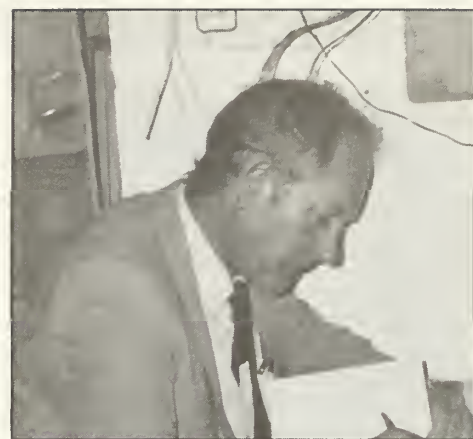


Graduation ceremonies were held at the close of the Academy. Handing out diplomas from left to right are: Fred Naehrer, NASA; Nancy Trudell and Len Wheeler, Helena FSDO, FAA; Mayor Kay McKenna; and Mike Ferguson.

Annual Safety Expo



Brian Haynes, Chairman of the Board, PanAm Weather Systems, Minneapolis, arrived in Helena with his satellite weather system. The system which provides up-to-the-minute weather conditions and forecasts saw considerable action at the fly-in due to poor weather conditions. Brian demonstrates some of the many other features offered by the system to a group of observers which includes some of our friends from the Alberta Aviation Council Air Tour.



The 7th Annual Safety Expo and Family Fly-in was held July 2-4, at Helena. The event was jointly sponsored by the FAA, Helena Regional Airport and the Montana and Idaho Aeronautics Divisions. The banquet featured speaker was Sparky Imeson, who gave a colorful exposition of "A Gringo's Brazilian Adventure".



Kevin Wagner, United States Air Force, gave very informative and beneficial presentations on survival techniques. Included were segments on medical, fire starting, signaling, and land navigation.



All meal functions, seminars and presentations were held in facilities on the Helena Airport.

Nina Johnson of Helena was the winner of the Safety Expo/Family Fly-in poster contest. Nina's poster was reproduced and used throughout the event as the logo for the 1993 fly-in.



Backcountry airstrips receive maintenance



United States Forest Service employees participated at Schafer Meadows. Pictured from left to right are: Jenny Graham, Al Koss and Teresa Wenum. The forest service conducted a wilderness presentation and involved the audience in role-playing.....Mike Ferguson starred as a pack horse!



Loren Smith, and the Great Falls MPA Hangar, provide a delicious Buffalo and Beef Barbecue with all the trimmings at both the Benchmark and Schafer Meadow work sessions. Loren serves as President of the Great Falls Hangar.



The Montana Pilots Association conducted its annual meeting at the Schafer Meadows Work Session. Present at Schafer was Mr. J.C. McLaughlin, New York City, who was visiting with his wife Sue and 12 of their friends. Mr. McLaughlin was so impressed with the work of the MPA in maintaining the airstrip that he donated \$500 to the MPA in support of these efforts.



The traditional buffalo and beef are buried and smoked in a pit that is dug by participants during the work session. The Benchmark session was held May 29-31 and Schafer Meadows received its annual maintenance July 16-18.



Herb Sammons was very surprised to see his favorite nurse, Bernie Mundt and her husband who arrived at Schafer with Loren Smith.

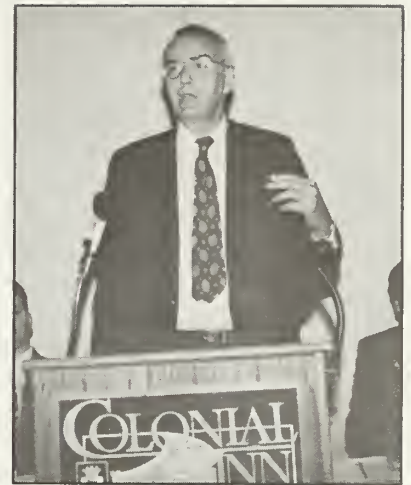
INAC Conference



Dr. Jerry Cockrell, of Anchorage, Alaska offered an entertaining, inspirational program in that exuberant style of his that we all know and love.



Jack Waddell, retired Boeing test pilot, offered a fascinating program including films of the early days at Boeing. Jack was Boeing's chief engineering test pilot and first to perform test flights on the 747.



Ed Stimpson, President, GAMA, spoke of critical issues facing general aviation, particularly product liability and the importance of the Glickman-Hansen legislation which seeks a 15-year statute of repose for general aviation.



John Morrison, Jr., of Helena, awarded trophies to the top golf finishers. The Don Lindsay Memorial Golf Tournament is conducted annually during the INAC Conference.



Ron Mercer served as master of ceremonies at Thursday's lunch. Pictured with Ron are Ed Tatum, Manager, Airports Division, FAA Northwest Mountain Region, Renton, WA and Ed Scott, Executive Vice President, National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), Silver Spring, MD.



Mike Ferguson presented Harold Hamm of Helena with the prestigious INAC Presidential Award. Harold was recognized for distinguished service provided to INAC. He joined INAC in 1972, was elected to the INAC Board of Directors in 1978 and served as INAC President in 1985.

1993 GA Data Available

The latest U.S. general aviation statistics are now available from the General Aviation Manufacturers Association's (GAMA) 1993 General Aviation Statistical Databook. The Databook serves as the top single compact source of basic information on the entire U.S. general aviation industry.

The Databook contains statistics on domestic general aviation shipments, composition of the aircraft fleet, exports and aviation safety trends. Information on the number of hours flown by general aviation aircraft, categorized by type and primary use, as well as data on the age of the fleet are also contained in the publication. Statistics on the U.S. pilot population and airports are also listed.

The GAMA Databook is available for \$10. Write to GAMA, 1400 K Street, NW, Suite 801, Washington, DC 20005.

from ADMINISTRATOR, page 2

Walter who was enshrined in 1977; also in 1981 the Wings Club, one of the world's most prestigious aviation organizations presented her with the Distinguished Achievement Award for her contributions in helping to develop the world's foremost general aviation industry. In addition to these and many other distinguished awards, Mrs. Beech served on many committees, boards and commissions. Olive Ann Beech was the last of a great but small group of family-owned aviation manufacturing entrepreneurs who overcame great obstacles through endless hard work and determination to see their dreams come true. Olive Ann Beech will certainly be remembered in history as the "First Lady of Aviation".

Notes:

Is your community thinking about planning an airshow in 1994?? If so, find out how to begin preparing by contacting the International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) at 1931 Horton Rd., Suite 7, Jackson, MI 49203-9974 or phone them 517-782-2424.

The FAA has commissioned a second long range communication outlet at Lewistown at 122.35. This new frequency is in addition to 122.2 at Judith Gap serving the Lewistown area.

Thirty-three hundred copies of this public document were produced at an estimated cost of 37¢ each, for a total cost of \$1,210. This includes \$60 for production, \$526 for postage and \$624 for printing.



September 1993

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Postage Paid at
Helena, MT 59620
Permit No. 141**

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